

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
June 02, 2025

A **Regular Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona was convened at 11465 West Civic Center Drive in open and public session at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Mike Pineda led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Members Present: Mayor Mike Pineda; Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson; Councilmembers Tina Conde, Jeannette Garcia, Gloria Solorio, Shari Weise, and Max White.

Members Absent: None.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Katie Gregory, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Deputy City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Jaime Lyn Gonzales, Community & Economic Vitality Manager; Craig Jennings, Judge; Ted Flores, Human Resources Assistant Director; Julie Knoll, Deputy City Clerk; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. PRESENTATION ITEMS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

a. PROCLAMATION – JUNETEENTH DAY OF OBSERVANCE

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth Day of Observance. This item was for discussion only.

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Teresa Desanti stated Fire Chief Larry Rooney did not contact her as was noted during the last City Council meeting. She stated she will no longer be speaking with Fire Chief Rooney and will only be speaking to the City Council.

Maria Alvarado spoke under Unscheduled Public Appearances; however, her comments are listed below Agenda Item 5a.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are of a routine nature or have been previously studied by the City Council at a work session. They are intended to be acted upon in one motion. Councilmembers may pull items from consent if they would like them considered separately.

Mayor Pineda asked if any Councilmember wished to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Having no requests from Council, motion was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Vice Mayor Nielson, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

a. MINUTES

City Council approved the May 19, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.

b. SECOND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF AVONDALE AND AVONDALE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL 3924

City Council amended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Avondale and Avondale Professional Firefighters Association (APFFA) Local 3924 to incorporate language allowing for represented employees who are at the maximum salary of their respective FY2026 step plan to receive a one-time lump sum payment equal to 2% of their FY2026 step rate (annualized) and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. RESOLUTION 1029-0625 - ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PENSION FUNDING POLICY

City Council adopted Resolution 1029-0625, approving an updated Pension Funding Policy for Fiscal Year 2026 and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1030-0625 - DESIGNATION OF CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT (AELR)

City Council adopted Resolution 1030-0625, designating Renee Weatherless as the Chief Fiscal Officer for the submittal of the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1031-0625 - COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL POLICIES

City Council adopted Resolution 1031-0625, adopting Comprehensive Financial Policies and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. ORDINANCE 2022-0625 – ACCEPTING A DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR A PUBLIC SEWER LIFT STATION AT THREE RIVERS RANCH

City Council adopted Ordinance 2022-0625, authorizing the acceptance of real property for a public sewer lift station located generally north of Southern Avenue and west of Dysart Road and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

NOTE FROM THE CITY CLERK: ITEMS 5A AND 5B WERE PRESENTED TOGETHER AND VOTED ON SEPARATELY.

a. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 1032-0625 - TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING SETTING FORTH THE INTENT TO RAISE THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY

City Council held a public hearing and consider a request to adopt Resolution 1032-0625, setting forth the City's intent to levy primary property taxes in the amount of \$0.6095 per hundred (\$100) of assessed valuation and secondary property taxes in the amount of \$0.8497 per hundred (\$100) of assessed valuation and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Renee Weatherless, Director of Finance and Budget, presented agenda item 5a and 5b together. Agenda item 5a includes a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy. Agenda item 5b includes a public hearing on the final budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$486,614,500.

The proposed combined tax rate for FY2026 is \$1.46 which is equal to the prior year. The primary property tax is decreasing and is used for general purposes. The secondary property tax is increasing. However, it is solely for the purpose of repaying bond principal and interest. The Levy is the revenue the city collects, and it is because our proposed primary levy of \$4,336,412 exceeds the prior year, the City is required to hold a Truth in Taxation public hearing.

The hearing was published in the newspaper and a copy of the ad was presented. The combined tax rates were presented, and a sample calculated rate was presented.

The FY2026 expenditure limitation of \$486,614,500 has not changed from the tentative budget adopted by City Council on May 5, 2025. Ms. Weatherless reviewed the changes made since the tentative budget was adopted. All increases related to these adjustments were offset by decreases to either contingency or unanticipated revenues.

Other exhibits included in the budget are the administrative awards for budgeted lines greater than \$100k, the schedule of interfund transfers, and the 5-year capital improvement plan. The final steps for the budget include holding a truth in taxation hearing, holding a hearing on the final budget, approving the final budget in a Special Meeting, and then returning on June 16 to consider the adoption of the property tax levy.

Staff recommends City Council: a) hold a public truth in taxation hearing and take a roll call vote on resolution 1032-0625 setting forth the intent to raise the property tax levy; and b) hold a public hearing on the FY2026 final budget and to adopt resolution 1033-0625 setting forth the final budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Mayor Pineda opened the floor for comments from the Council.

Councilmember Solorio explained her reasoning on why she voted no on the property tax increase. She noted she is not about opposing necessary investments within the city or disregarding the statutory obligations. She is standing up for the financial stability of the residents of City of Avondale. The City Council just approved an increase in the water and sewer rates and is now proposing a higher property tax. She spoke about the impact this has on residents. She noted reviewing the budget to utilize cost saving and efficiency measures. Councilmember Solorio re-read her statement in Spanish.

Councilmember Garcia provided her reasoning on why she would be voting no on the agenda item. She noted she voted no on the recent water rate increase, and she does not believe an additional increase for the residents is the correct option. She noted she is a single mom and understands how this item will impact the residents. She noted just because other cities are doing this, does not mean Avondale should. Avondale should reallocate its monies and educate citizens on bonds.

In response to a question from Councilmember Weise, Ms. Weatherless explained that any city that desires to levy more than the prior year must hold a truth and taxation hearing. Additionally, Ms. Weatherless explained the increase in the property tax has been incorporated into the presented budget and she noted the impact of the agenda item not passing.

In response to a question from Councilmember Nielson, Ms. Weatherless explained the truth and taxation hearing is only based off the primary tax rate.

Mayor Pineda opened the public hearing and received a request to speak from Maria Alvarado. She is against the increase in the property taxes within Avondale, noting the increase will have an economic impact on everyone. The proposed property tax increase will raise rents for rentals and mortgage payments for homeowners. She asked City Council to vote no on the agenda item.

Mayor Pineda closed the public hearing and called for a motion.

Councilmember White moved to adopt Resolution 1032-0625, setting forth the City's intent to levy primary property taxes in the amount of \$0.6095 per hundred (\$100) of assessed valuation and secondary property taxes in the amount of \$0.8497 per hundred (\$100) of assessed valuation and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.; Councilmember Weise seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote, the motion was carried unanimously 4 to 3.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Nay
Councilmember Solorio	Nay
Mayor Pineda	Nay

b. PUBLIC HEARING – FISCAL YEAR 2026 FINAL BUDGET

City Council held a public hearing to receive comment on the final budget for fiscal year 2025 - 2026 (FY2026). This item was for discussion only.

Mayor Pineda opened the public hearing and did not receive any requests to speak. Mayor Pineda closed the public hearing and opened the floor for comments from Council.

6. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS FROM MAYOR, VICE MAYOR, AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Solorio attended the Women in Municipal Government Conference in Antonio, Texas.

Councilmember White attended the American Public Transit Association Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

Councilmember Conde gave accolades to all for the Memorial Day Ceremony, noting Vice Mayor Nielson and Councilmember Garcia's participation in the event.

Councilmember Garia echoed the Councilmember Conde's comments, noting her experience at the Memoria Day ceremony.

Vice Mayor Nielson shared comments he received from residents, requesting more promotion of the event in the future.

Mayor Pineda attended the Summer Reading Kickoff event at Phoenix Raceway.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Weise moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; Councilmember White seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
June 02, 2025

A **Special Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona was convened at 11465 West Civic Center Drive in open and public session at 6:08 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Mike Pineda; Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson; Councilmembers Tina Conde, Jeannette Garcia, Gloria Solorio, Shari Weise, and Max White.

Members Absent: None.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Katie Gregory, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Deputy City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Jaime Lyn Gonzales, Community & Economic Vitality Manager; Craig Jennings, Judge; Ted Flores, Human Resources Assistant Director; Julie Knoll, Deputy City Clerk; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 5 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. RESOLUTION 1033-0625 - SETTING FORTH THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

City Council considered a request to adopt Resolution 1033-0625, approving the final budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 (FY2026) in the amount of \$486,614,500 and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Councilmember White moved to adopt Resolution 1033-0625, approving the final budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 (FY2026) in the amount of \$486,614,500 and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents; Councilmember Weise seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember White moved to adjourn the Special Meeting; Councilmember Solorio seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

A **Special Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona was convened at 11465 West Civic Center Drive in open and public session at 6:13 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Mike Pineda; Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson; Councilmembers Tina Conde, Jeannette Garcia, Gloria Solorio, Shari Weise, and Max White.

Members Absent: None.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Katie Gregory, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Deputy City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Jaime Lyn Gonzales, Community & Economic Vitality Manager; Craig Jennings, Judge; Ted Flores, Human Resources Assistant Director; Julie Knoll; Deputy City Clerk; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 5 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember White moved to adjourn the Special Meeting and hold an executive session pursuant to: a) Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 38--431.03(A)(1) for discussion of the evaluation and salary of the City Auditor; b) Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 38--431.03(A)(1) for discussion of the evaluation and salary of the City Attorney; and c) Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 38--431.03(A)(1) for discussion of the evaluation and salary of the City Manager; Councilmember Solorio seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Mike Pineda

Mike Pineda (Jun 17, 2025 13:53 PDT)

Mike Pineda, Mayor

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 2nd day of Jun 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Marcella Sarmiento

Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

June 16, 2025

Date Approved by City Council